

THE ANARCHISTS.

History of the Haymarket Tragedy in Chicago.

CAUSES OF THE TROUBLE.

Deeds of the Fateful Day—May 4, 1886.

ARREST, TRIAL AND CONVICTION.

Judgment of the Illinois Courts Affirmed by the Nation's Supreme Tribunal.

Portraits and Sketches of the Police, the Judges, the Jury, the Convicted and Other Interested Persons—Pictures of the Scene of the Tragedy, Court Scenes, Etc.—Closing Events of the Drama. Letters of the Condemned, in Which They State Their Case.

ANARCHY IN AMERICA.

Soon after the close of the civil war in the United States immigration, always of no mean proportions, increased rapidly. It was then the American public first began to hear much of communism, socialism and anarchism. In 1883 the maximum was reached when 733,093 Europeans landed in the United States. Immigration from England had declined and that from Ireland fallen to a minimum; but from southern Germany there was an immense increase, while eastern Europe sent Poles, Bohemians, Russians, Hungarians and their congeners by tens of thousands. In many of these people hatred of government had become a hereditary sentiment. Chicago became headquarters for the discontented, and The Arbeiter Zeitung (Workers' Journal) their organ. Then sprang up in that city the International Workingmen's association. The platform or declaration of principles of this organization, as was testified to at the trial, urged that "the present system under which property is owned by individuals should be destroyed, and that all capital which has been produced by labor should be transformed into common property." The association was divided into "groups," of which there were eighty in the United States in March, 1885, located principally in the cities of industry.



SCENE OF THE BOMB THROWING.

The Chicago groups were known as the North Side, the Northwest Side, the American, the Karl Marx, the Freiheit, the South Side and Jefferson No. 1. Schwab, Neebe and Langg belonged to the North Side "group," Engel and Fischer to the Northwest Side, and Spies, Parsons and Fielden to the American. There was also an armed socialist organization called the Lehr und Wehr-Verein, whose members seem to have also been members of the International "groups," but to have been of a higher rank.

The branch of the International Workingmen's association which existed in Chicago during 1885 and up to May 4, 1886, was a compact, well disciplined organization. At the head of it was a general or central committee. Next to it came the Lehr und Wehr-Verein. Then came the "armed sections" of the various "groups," and then came the unarmed members of the "groups."

JUST BEFORE THE TRAGEDY.

The evolution of the tragedy was curiously regular.

First, as has been shown, these men taught radical Socialism. Next, they organized discontented workmen to act more efficiently in strikes. The usual trouble arose: "scabs" took the place of striking workmen, they were attacked by the strikers, the police were called on for protection and the inevitable question was presented—shall we fight? The Anarchists, in speech and in The Arbeiter Zeitung, vehemently urged destructive measures. They exhorted the strikers to fight both the "scabs" and the police, gave valuable instructions how to use nitro-glycerine and manufacture bombs, and had "armed sections" of their supporters who drilled nightly and were instructed in the use of bombs.

At length it was boldly announced that the Anarchists had 5,000 armed and well drilled revolutionists in Chicago, and it was proved that they really had 3,000 at this time, as was sworn to during the trial. The Arbeiter Zeitung and The Alarm published many such sentiments as these:

Daggers and revolvers are easily to be gotten; hand grenades are cheaply to be produced. Will the workmen supply themselves with weapons, dynamite and prussic acid?

The workmen ought to take aim at every member of the militia.

And while the writers acted with what



INSPECTOR J. BONFIELD.

they probably considered caution, the speakers used language of a very inflammatory character. Still, though one of the Chicago papers had predicted serious trouble, the meetings were not suppressed. But Frederick Ebersold, superintendent, and John Bonfield, inspector of police, were well aware of the extent of the discontent and made the most elaborate preparations to meet the outbreak when it should come.

Capt. John Bonfield, who assumed the responsibility on the night of the tragedy, as on the day of the previous riot, was born in 1833 in New Brunswick, his father being a County Clare Irishman lately arrived in that province. In 1841 the family moved to Chicago, where John learned the trade of a machinist and afterward became a locomotive engineer. In 1857 he became a policeman and rose rapidly in rank.



SUPT. EBERSOLD.

The agitation growing out of the attempt to enforce the eight hour law led directly to the tragedy. As early as May, 1883, the organized workmen of Chicago, gave notice that on the 1st of May, 1886, they would insist upon the general observance of the law. It is not necessary to detail the numerous strikes and occasional riots of the following two years in various sections of the country; suffice it, that each one was eagerly seized upon by the anarchists as fresh proof that capital was crushing labor.

On April 25, 1885, the new board of trade building was formally opened; there was a somewhat riotous popular demonstration against it, and Fielden and Parsons addressed the assemblage in language more inflammatory than ever before. In July, 1885, there was a general strike of street car employes. One riot was excited which was only



EXPLOSION OF BOMB.

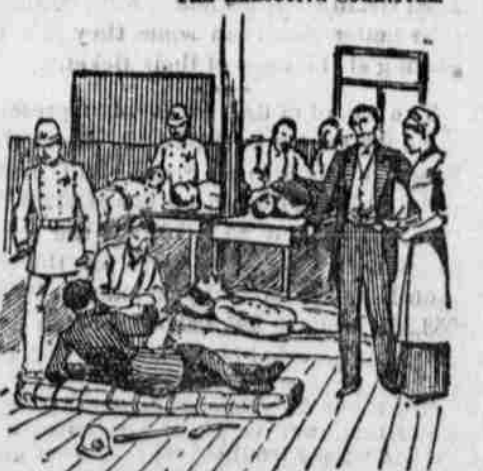
suppressed by the police with great difficulty. In February, 1886, the workmen at the McCormick factory struck, and Pinkerton's men were employed to defend the property, and there was a riot. On May 1, 1886, the workmen of Chicago, with few exceptions, carried out their plan of a general strike for an eight hour day. The strike was well managed and partially successful. On May 3 August Spies delivered a fierce philippic against the non-union men still employed at the McCormick works, and there was an encounter between the "scabs" and police on one side and the strikers on the other. A short and terrible fight occurred; several men were killed and many more wounded in various degrees. From the battle ground August Spies hurried to the office of The Arbeiter Zeitung, wrote and had printed and distributed the noted revenge circular.

On May 4 there was rioting nearly all day on Blue Island avenue, near the McCormick works. The first regiment was ordered to be in readiness at its armory and the entire police force was kept in instant readiness. The Arbeiter Zeitung of that morning urged destructive action, and the Anarchists were busy among the strikers all day. Thousands of copies of the following notice were scattered through the city:

ATTENTION, WORKMEN!

Great mass meeting to-night at 7:30 o'clock at the Haymarket. Randolph street, between Desplains and Halsted. Good speakers will be present to denounce the latest atrocious acts of the police—the shooting of our fellow workmen yesterday afternoon. Workmen, arm yourselves and appear in full force!

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.



DESPAINES STREET STATION—BRINGING IN THE WOUNDED.

The word "Ruhe" (German for "Peace") alleged to have been given upon the signal for immediate revolution, also appeared in that number of the paper.

THE FATEFUL NIGHT.

On the evening of May 4 about 2,000 people assembled. The managers placed the wagon on which the speakers were to stand a little way up Desplains street from the Haymarket, by the mouth of a convenient alley, and at a point where they could have a full view of the police as the latter advanced from their Desplains Street station. Mayor Carter Harrison was in the crowd and expressed some surprise at the mildness of the first speakers, Spies and Parsons. The crowd was disappointed, too, and was fast melting away, when Fielden took his stand in the wagon. His most intimate English friends could not have recognized the mild Methodist exhorter and laborer of other days. His frenzied declamation excited what remained of the crowd, and their applause reacted on him. It was testified at the trial that he called for immediate action in these words:

Arm! Arm!! Toward the law!

Then Inspector Bonfield decided to disperse the meeting. Seven companies of policemen, 175 men, in platoons reaching from curb to curb, marched from their station of Desplains street north to the wagon. As they drew near, Fielden is sworn to have shouted:

"Here come the bloodhounds; you do your duty and I'll do mine!"

Capt. Ward, of the police, called out: "In the name of the people of the state of Illinois I command you to peaceably disperse!"

Fielden stepped down from the wagon exclaiming:

"We are peaceable!"

It was claimed by the prosecution that the word "peaceable" was the signal agreed on. There was dead silence for perhaps ten seconds, the crowd slowly moving off and the police standing firm, when a strange fizzing sound was heard near the mouth of

the alley and thence a little ball rose in curve over the wagon and fell between the second and third companies of police. There was a blinding flash, an explosion that was heard



two miles and a deep prolonged roar, echoing from the buildings—then appalling screams and a volley of pistol shots. The smoke lifted, and the ground appeared covered with slain—but only for an instant. Two whole companies of police had been thrown to the ground, of whom one, Matthias J. Degan, was instantly killed, six mortally wounded and sixty others hurt in various degrees.

But the police rallied at once and with the firmness and steadiness of veterans, they sprang forward, emptying their revolvers into the flying crowd as they went, and following their shots with their clubs they cleared the street in less than three minutes of all save the dead and wounded. From alley, gutter and hallway came deep groans and curses.

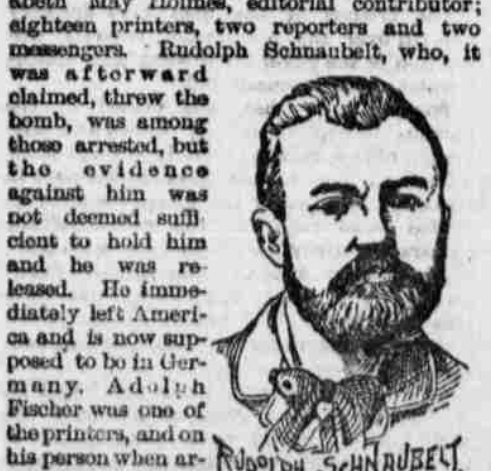
It is estimated that twenty of the crowd were killed and about 150 wounded. An Anarchist named Kistler was killed by the bomb. Besides Officer Degan, killed outright, the policemen who died of their wounds were J. J. Barrett, George Miller, Timothy Flannigan, Michael Sheehan, Thomas Reddin and Neil Hansen. After the dispersion of the mob came the saddest scenes of the occasion. The dead and wounded policemen were rapidly conveyed to the station, the latter made as comfortable as possible and surgeons called; but not before their wives and near relatives hurried there, for bad news flies fast. The tears of some, the sobs and loud cries of others, the groans, the gasps, the blood and mangled bodies—all these formed a scene to wring the hearts of the pitiful.

Within a few weeks Chicago had contributed \$70,000 for the care of the wounded police and the relief of their families and those of the dead.

The bomb used is said to have been of the same pattern used to kill the czar of Russia, and is very well shown in the initial letter cut of this account. It was made of composition metal cups fastened together nearly in the form of a sphere with a bolt and nut.

ARREST—TRIAL—CONVICTION.

On the day after the tragedy the police descended on every known Anarchist resort in Chicago and arrested every suspected man; before morning many had been dragged from their beds. Every one in The Arbeiter Zeitung office was arrested: August Spies, editor in chief; Christ Spies, his brother; Michael Schwab, associate editor; Mrs. Elizabeth May Holmes, editorial contributor; eighteen printers, two reporters and two messengers. Rudolph Schnaubelt, who, it was afterward claimed, threw the bomb, was among those arrested, but the evidence against him was not deemed sufficient to hold him and he was released. He immediately left America and is now supposed to be in Germany. Adolph Fischer was one of the printers, and on his person when arrested were found a 44-caliber revolver and a peculiar knife made from a flat file. All were released after the longest except Schwab, Fischer and August Spies. The condemned and some others were held without bail. May 17, the grand jury met and listened to a charge by



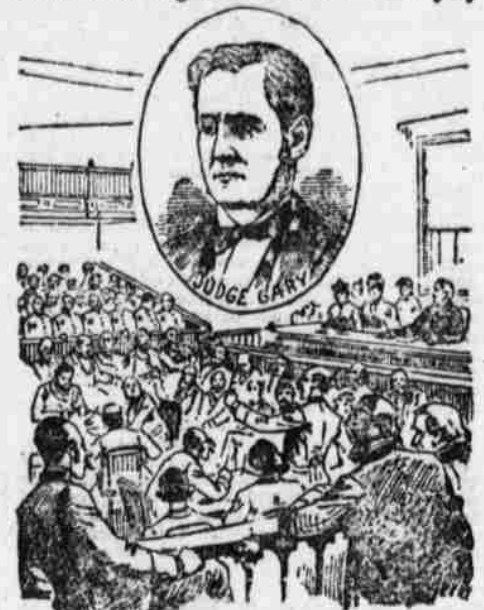
RUDOLPH SCHNAUBELT.

the late Judge Rogers; on the 27th they handed in indictments against the men since condemned and Anton Hirschburger and John Appel besides. On making up his case the prosecutor nollled the indictments against the last two, the evidence being insufficient. On the 21st of June the trial began before Judge Gary. Three weeks and three days were consumed in making up a jury; 1,231 talesmen were examined, both sides exhausting every power the law gave them. The names of the jury were as follows:

Frank S. Osborne, foreman; James H. Cole, Scott G. Randall, Theodore E. Decker, Charles B. Todd, Andrew Hamilton, Charles A. Ludwi, James H. Dray, A. Alanson H. Ford, John B. Greiner, G. W. Adams, Edward T. Sanford.

The trial lasted from July 15 to Aug. 23 inclusive and attracted the attention of the civilized world—scarcely more by the importance of the issues than by the abilities of the counsel. On behalf of the state appeared States Attorney Julius S. Grinnell, assisted by Messrs. Frank Walker, Edmund Furthman and George C. Englem; for the accused, Capt. W. P. Black, Moses Salomon, W. A. Foster and Sigmund Zeisler. The jury

retired at 3:30 p. m., and at 10 a. m. next day, Aug. 20, returned a verdict of guilty against all the defendants, with a sentence of fifteen years in the penitentiary for Oscar Neebe, and death for the other seven.



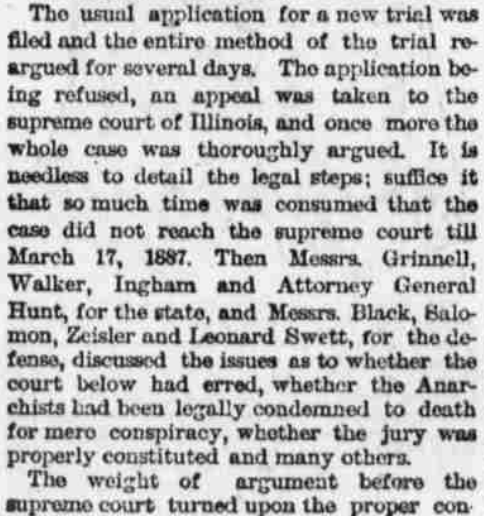
THE TRIAL.

The trial began and ended with sensations. On the first day A. R. Parsons, who had escaped and been in hiding, walked into the courtroom, announced his voluntary surrender and took his place in the dock with his friends. At the close, when asked by the court if they had ought to say why sentences of death should not be pronounced, they all made long addresses, those of Parsons and Fielden being the best. That of Spies consisted of pleading and defiance, reasoning on liberty and quotations from Scripture. In the course of his remarks he spoke of Christ as a Socialist. Schwab and Neebe gave arguments against the regularity of the trial. Fielden excited some astonishment by saying: "The great Socialist, Jesus Christ, said 1,900 years ago: 'Better that ninety-nine guilty men should go unpunished than that one innocent man should suffer.'" Judge Gary then sentenced the seven men to be hanged.

APPEALS TO HIGHER COURTS.

The usual application for a new trial was filed and the entire method of the trial argued for several days. The application being refused, an appeal was taken to the supreme court of Illinois, and once more the whole case was thoroughly argued. It is needless to detail the legal steps; suffice it that so much time was consumed that the case did not reach the supreme court till March 17, 1887. Then Messrs. Grinnell, Walker, Ingham and Attorney General Hunt, for the state, and Messrs. Black, Salomon, Zeisler and Leonard Swett, for the defense, discussed the issues as to whether the court below had erred, whether the Anarchists had been legally condemned to death for mere conspiracy, whether the jury was properly constituted and many others.

The weight of argument before the supreme court turned upon the proper con-



COUNSEL FOR DEFENSE.

of Landeck, central Germany; one of his early playthings was an old torture rack with which the nobles used to extort money from Jews or "regulate" the peasants, and his favorite haunt in childhood was on the edge of a deep chasm into which the robber barons used to throw "the pretty girls of the village" whom they had kidnapped and of whom they had tired. There he grew up, and thence he came to America to teach the Anarchistic doctrine, reaching the new world in 1873 and Chicago a year later. There he worked as an upholsterer for a number of years. He first showed an interest in the theories of Socialism in 1876, and in 1877 joined himself to the Lehr und Wehr-Verein. He was attached to The Arbeiter Zeitung in 1880 and succeeded Paul Grottkau as editor in chief in 1884. Everybody remembers the attachment that sprang up between him and Miss Nina Van Zandt during the trial, and which resulted in their marriage "by proxy."

Samuel Fielden was born in Todmorden, Lancashire, England, in 1849. He grew up to be a laborer and a Methodist field preacher. In 1868 he came to America, and soon located in Chicago, where he joined the Liberal League in 1870; there he met Spies and Parsons, and thereafter grew rapidly into anarchical views. Save him and Parsons, all the condemned are Germans.

Albert R. Parsons is the only native American among the condemned men. Born in Alabama in 1849 and early left an orphan, he was reared by his brother, who was afterwards the noted Confederate general, W. H. Parsons. He served in the Confederate artillery when but 14 years old; but after the war he became a Republican, and in 1872 married a woman "suspected of having negro blood in her veins," for which his brother disowned him. Before this he had been first a printer on The Galveston (Tex.) News and late editor of The Waco (Tex.) Spectator. Because of this marriage he was obliged to leave Texas, and locating in Chicago he worked in various printing offices, but after a time became a professional labor agitator; was at one time master workman of District Assembly 24, Knights of Labor, and was president of the trades assembly for three years. He was nominated for the presidency by the Socialistic party in 1880, but declined, as he was not then 35 years of age. In

accounts of the case, provided he makes oath that his opinion is not such as could not be overthrown by evidence. The question of the taking of a letter without warrant from Spies' desk was also brought up.

The supreme court of the United States rendered its decision on the 2d of November, holding, in brief, that the jury law of Illinois does not contravene any provision of the national constitution, and that the question as to whether the state constitution and laws had been strictly observed was one for the state courts alone. The court confined itself very strictly to the case before it, entering into the general questions raised only so far as absolutely necessary. But two points, therefore, were passed upon in regard to the amendments. The court held that the first ten amendments limit the powers of the Federal government, not the powers of a state over its citizens; and that the Fourteenth amendment has not changed the rule in that respect. In all other matters the court holds

that it has no jurisdiction, as the questions as to violating the national constitution were not raised or argued in the Illinois court. Therefore, a writ of error could not issue.

Of the various appeals and petitions and meetings protesting against the execution of the Anarchists we have not room to speak at length. Spies and Parsons have written autobiographies, and the condemned men, their families and Miss Nina Van Zandt, who married Spies by proxy, have been the objects of general attention since the tragedy. Dearly Mrs. Parsons, who has worked so hard for her husband's life, has become personally known in many cities by reason of her speeches in his behalf. Mrs. Schnaubelt, mother of the alleged bomb thrower, and Mrs. Schwab, her daughter, were recently brought into special prominence by reason of the elder lady's visit to America and the rumor that she had brought with her a full statement of the facts in the case from her son. Spies, Fielden and Schwab finally signed petitions for commutation. All these things can only be alluded to here. Among other cuts we give a portrait of Sheriff Matson, of Cook county, Ill., who, by virtue of his office, has charge of all executions in Chicago.



SHERIFF OF COOK COUNTY.

THE CONDEMNED MEN.

Brief biographical sketches of the condemned are here given:

August Theodore Vincent Spies (pronounced Spees) is credited with being the brains of the movement. He has given his experience in an autobiography which is regarded as the work of a genius by his friends, and as "eloquent insanity in print" by those who are opposed to him. He was born Dec. 10, 1853, in the "old robber" castle



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